

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 8 and 9 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
 - a reading unit constructed to read an image in an original;
 - a character recognizing unit constructed to recognize a character in the image read by said reading unit and to output a character code as a result of recognition;
 - a storing unit constructed to store a character font;
 - a readout unit constructed to read the character font from said storing unit based on the character code output by said character recognizing unit;
 - a detecting unit constructed to detect first character size concerning the character in the image read by said reading unit;
 - a setting unit constructed to set a magnification ratio based on an instruction by an operator;
 - a determining unit constructed to determine second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio;
 - a selecting unit constructed to select a type of the character font stored in said storing unit based on an instruction by the operator; and
 - a generating unit constructed to generate a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the character font, the type of which is selected by said selecting unit,

wherein said generating unit generates the reproduced image by selectively allocating ~~combining the characters having the second character size with a plurality of kinds of~~ character gap widths between adjacent characters, in accordance with a width of the characters having the second character size and a reproduction ~~gaps in order that the width of an the reproduced image to be reproduced, said reproduction~~ coincides with the width being fit to a width of the image read by said reading unit ~~which is multiplied by the magnification ratio.~~

2. and 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the determining unit determines second character size as a maximum size by which all characters in the original can be reproduced as reproduced images.

5. and 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said generating unit reproduces characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps when a number of pixels of a character gap calculated in accordance with the magnification ratio is not an integer.

8. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

reading an image in an original;

detecting first character size information concerning a character in the image;

recognizing a character in the image and outputting a character code as a result of recognition;

reading a character font from a storing unit based on the character code;

setting a magnification ratio based on an instruction by an operator;

determining second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio;

selecting a type of the character font based on an instruction by the operator; and

generating a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the read character font, the type of which is selected by said selecting step,

wherein said generating step generates the reproduced image by selectively allocating ~~combining the characters having the second character size with a plurality of kinds of~~ character gap widths between adjacent characters, in accordance with a width of the characters having the second character size and a reproduction width of an ~~gaps in order that the width of the reproduced image to be reproduced, said reproduction width being fit to a~~ ~~coincides with the~~ width of the image read by said reading unit ~~from the original which is multiplied by the~~ magnification ratio.

9. (Currently amended) A recording medium readable by a computer characterized by storing a program therein, said program using the computer to execute the processing comprising the steps of:

- reading an image in an original;
- detecting first character size information concerning a character in the image;
- recognizing a character in the image and outputting a character code as a result of recognition;
- reading a character font from a storing unit based on the character code;
- setting a magnification ratio based on an instruction by an operator;
- determining second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio;
- selecting a type of the character font based on an instruction by the operator; and
- generating a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the read character font, type of which is selected by said selecting step,

wherein said generating step generates the reproduced image by selectively allocating combining the characters having the second character size with a plurality of character gap widths between adjacent characters, in accordance with a kinds of character gaps in order that the width of the characters having the second character size and a reproduction reproduced image coincides with the width of an [[the]] image to be reproduced, said reproduction width being fit to a width of the image read in said reading step from the original which is multiplied by the magnification ratio.

10. to 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can form on a sheet an image based on data input from at least any of a plurality of data generation sources including an original reading unit and an external apparatus.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can transmit data to an external apparatus through at least any of a plurality of data transmission media including a personal computer interface and a network.

28. and 29. (Canceled)